



## Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs

Tony Evers, Governor | Mary M. Kolar, Secretary

May 24, 2020

Dear Union Grove Community:

I am writing today to inform you that one individual who works at the Wisconsin Veterans Home at Union Grove has tested positive for COVID-19. This employee self-reported and has not been to work since the onset of symptoms. This individual's job does not entail direct contact with members. We continue screening for COVID-19 and no other staff or members are exhibiting symptoms at this time.

As you know, we began testing all staff and members at Union Grove for COVID-19 in the past week as part of the overall state effort to identify all cases of COVID-19 so we can properly isolate people who test positive and quarantine their close contacts. These tests are ongoing and test results are pending. We remain hopeful that this is an isolated case.

We have all worked very hard to keep this virus off our campus by limiting visitors, temperature screening anyone who comes on campus, and strongly enforcing our infectious disease control procedures. Although this positive test result may cause you to be afraid or anxious, please know that we have been actively preparing for this situation for months. As soon as the severity of this virus became apparent in March, we set up a quarantine area in negative-pressure isolation rooms. We identified staff who would work in that area. We catalogued our PPE to ensure we had an adequate supply (we do) and put in place measures to obtain more if necessary. Staff have been wearing surgical masks and we have been strongly encouraging members to wear cotton masks, too.

I cannot stress enough how important it is for people to continue to follow the Safer at Home guidance. By staying home as much as possible, wearing masks when we are out, and washing our hands thoroughly and regularly, we are collectively helping to keep our community healthy. We all need to do our part to help keep our essential workers healthy and this positive test only underscores just how important this is.

As we find out the results of the outstanding tests and if there are any new developments, I will be in contact. We want you to be assured that we are open and transparent, and we are doing all we can to keep all staff and members healthy and safe.

If you have any questions, I am happy to address them.

Sincerely,

Diane Lynch  
Homes Division Administrator